



Docket No.: 1163-0395P  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Tadashi YAMAURA et al.

Application No.: 10/083,556

Confirmation No.: 5580

Filed: February 27, 2002

Art Unit: 2655

For: SPEECH ENCODING APPARATUS, SPEECH  
ENCODING METHOD, SPEECH DECODING  
APPARATUS, AND SPEECH DECODING  
METHOD

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Examiner: H. X. Vo

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

MS Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the reasons for allowance have been noted and the following comments are respectfully submitted in the above-identified application.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 have been allowed in the connection with the present application.

**Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance**

The Examiner, in the Reasons for Allowance, offers a generic statement as to why the claims of the present invention are allowable over the patents cited as prior art of record. Although Applicants agree that the cited patents do not disclose or teach the features listed by the Examiner, Applicants wish to emphasize that it is the claims as a whole, including the various interrelationships and interconnections between the various claimed elements, which are not taught or suggested by the cited patents.

Moreover, each claim should be separately considered as a whole as being allowable over the prior art of record. For example, the Examiner has provided the same reasons for allowance for independent claims 1, 2, 10, and 11. The Examiner's statement focuses on particular features of claim 1. However, claim 1 is an apparatus claims, while claims 2 and 11 are method claims. Applicants submit that claims 2 and 11 should not be limited to any structural features not recited in those claims. Furthermore, Applicants point out that independent claims 2, 10, and 11 do not include the first and second periodicity providing units, which are recited in claim 1. Thus, each claim should be separately considered and should not, in any way, be limited by elements mention by the Examiner, but not present in the claims.

Thus, Applicants respectfully emphasize that each claim should be considered separately as a whole, taking into consideration the various interrelationships and interconnections between the various claim elements as being allowable over the cited patent of record.

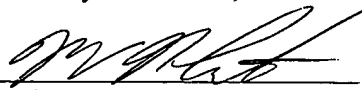
Conclusion

If the Examiner has any questions or needs to discuss any matters dealing with the application, he is requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 15, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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